

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

council as well. Perhaps there will be something more to say about it in a day or two.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** I have a related question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and a statement which he is reported to have made on Friday or Saturday night to the effect that Canada is seeking closer commercial and cultural relations with France. Does this statement pre-empt a closer bilateral military alliance with France?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** There is no connection, Mr. Speaker, between our desire to pursue a policy of closer cultural relations with France and other countries and any particular problem that we may have as a result of the position taken by the government of France regarding NATO arrangements.

**Mr. Lambert:** Is it not a fact that the French government has indicated to Canada, either formally or informally, its desire for bilateral military agreement to replace the present general NATO arrangement?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** There is no doubt about the position of Canada. We believe in collective security. We believe in the purposes and the objectives of the integrated structure of NATO. We have received a communication, as the Prime Minister has said, from the President of the French Republic. This communication has been addressed, either in the form of a letter or in the form of a note, to Canada and the other 13 NATO countries. We are in the process now of examining the note addressed to Canada. We are also consulting with the other countries on the NATO Council on this situation as it affects both them and us. We are studying the matter here, in Ottawa. When we are in a position to give a further report, it will of course be given to the house as early as possible.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** I should like to address a supplementary question either to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or to the Minister of National Defence, but it arises out of the same subject. Will the government use the opportunity provided by the French announcement of its decision to make a radical change in France's role in NATO, to reconsider and renegotiate the Canadian military contribution to NATO?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** As I indicated during the debate on [Mr. Pearson.]

the estimates, the whole question of commitments for the next period is under consideration, and it will have to be considered in the light of developments now taking place.

**Mr. Thompson:** I have a further supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of reports that the 14 members of NATO other than France are planning to declare their own faith in NATO, what, if anything, is Canada doing about that?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Consideration is being given by the other member countries in NATO to confirming our faith in the collective security aspects of NATO.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Surely, the minister is in a position to say whether Canada is giving any consideration to a bilateral agreement with France in connection with military affairs? I would think the answer would be an unequivocal no. I am surprised the minister is not more definite.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** If my hon. friend had before him the information I have before me, I am sure his reply would be the same as mine.

**GRAIN****OATS AND BARLEY—INQUIRY AS TO FINAL PAYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is he now in a position to announce the final payments for oats and barley?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** I was informed, just before coming into the house, that the submissions to council approving the final payments have now arrived from Winnipeg. I expect they will be acted upon immediately and the Wheat Board will be making its announcement in the ordinary way.

**Mr. Nasserden:** May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance? May I take it he will be making a complementary statement here in the house with regard to these final payments?

**Mr. Sharp:** I intend to follow the same practice as I followed in connection with wheat. I shall ask permission to table the order in council and the Wheat Board announcement the day the announcement is made, so that members will know what the Wheat Board has announced.